

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 CU-02 ISO-00 OES-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
USIA-06 PA-01 PRS-01 L-03 SS-15 SY-05 /060 W
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 422
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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 10988

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, OGEN, ASEC, TGEN, PINT, OEXC
SUBJECT: SOVIET CONTACTS WITH AMERICAN CITIZENS AND EMBASSY
PERSONNEL

REF: MOSCOW 10901

1. DURING THE PAST SIX WEEKS THERE HAVE BEEN APPROXIMATELY THIRTEEN UNUSUAL CONTACTS INVOLVING EMBASSY PERSONNEL OR AMERICAN CITIZENS BY SOVIET CITIZENS. THESE CONTACTS HAVE HAD AS THEIR OBJECTIVE EITHER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SUBSEQUENT RENDEZVOUS, OR THE PASSING OF WHAT HAS BEEN DESCRIBED BY THE SOVIET INDIVIDUAL AS "IMPORTANT INFORMATION". TO DATE NONE OF THE CONTACTS HAS BEEN PURSUED BY THE AMERICANS CONCERNED NOR HAVE THERE BEEN ANY SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS. THE FOLLOWING ARE DETAILS OF THESE CONTACTS:

A. WEYLAND BEEGHLI, ASST AGRIC. ATTACHE, ON JUNE 6, LEFT HIS CAR APPROXIMATELY ONE BLOCK FROM THE EMBASSY WITH A FLAT TIRE. RETURNING TO FIX THE TIRE AT 2200 HOURS HE DISCOVERED A SMALL NOTE UNDER HIS WINDSHIELD WIPER. THE NOTE STATED THAT THE DRAFTER DESIRED A MEETING AT THIS SAME LOCATION AT 2130. THE TIME FOR SUCH A RENDEZVOUS HAD ALREADY PAST.

B. ON JUNE 13 THERE OCCURRED THE FIRST OF FOUR CONTACTS BY IGOR KIMOVICH KOTLYAR WITH AMERICAN EMBASSY PERSONNEL. ON FIRST
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OCCASION KOTLYAR APPEARED AT THE EMBASSY APARTMENT OF COL GRAHAM VERNON, ARMY ATTACHE'. DURING HIS STAY IN VERNON'S APARTMENT, KOTLYAR INDICATED THAT IF HE COULD BE FURNISHED SOME UNSPECIFIED ASSISTANCE, HE WOULD, IN TURN, PROVIDE SOME "USEFUL INFORMATION." SIGNIFICANTLY, KOTLYAR ASKED IF "THERE WAS A SAFE PLACE TO TALK" AND MOVED HIS ARMS IN A MOTION WHICH SUGGESTED A SECURE CONFERENCE ROOM. KOTLYAR ATTEMPTED TO SET

UP A SUBSEQUENT MEETING WITH VERNON THE FOLLOWING DAY WHICH WAS NOT HELD. KOTLYAR APPARENTLY HAD NO TROUBLE ENTERING OR EXITING THE EMBASSY GROUNDS PAST THE SOVIET MILITSIA.

C. AFTER AN UNSUCCESSFUL APPROACH TO THE EMBASSY'S SECURITY OFFICER ON JUNE 28, KOTLYAR NEXT MADE CONTACT ON A NEARBY STREET WITH ECONOMIC OFFICER JAMES MAY ON JULY 1. AT THIS MEETING THE SOVIET CLAIMED TO HAVE SOME USEFUL INFORMATION AND INDICATED HIS DESIRE TO SPEAK WITH A "MILITARY ATTACHE, BUT NOT AT THE TOP LEVEL." KOTLYAR, HOWEVER, DISAPPEARED A FEW MINUTES LATER WITHOUT MEETING ANYONE FROM THE EMBASSY.

D. ON JULY 8, KOTLYAR AGAIN APPEARED AT THE EMBASSY, THIS TIME IN THE APARTMENT OF MAJ DAVID MILLER, USDAO. KOTLYAR CLAIMED THAT HE WAS LOOKING FOR A SPECIFIC PERSON (HIS DESCRIPTION WAS OF COL VERNON). ON THIS OCCASION KOTLYAR STATED THAT IN EXCHANGE FOR INFORMATION HE WANTED MONEY AND ASSISTANCE IN EMIGRATING TO THE WEST. AGAIN A RENDEZVOUS WAS OFFERED BY KOTLYAR, THIS TIME AT A NEARBY CAFE. KOTLYAR THEN DEPARTED. HE HAD NO APPARENT DIFFICULTY WITH EITHER HIS ENTRY OR DEPARTURE FROM THE EMBASSY.

E. WHILE EXITING HIS CAR ON JUNE 19, GILBERT CALLAWAY, EMBASSY PRESS OFFICER, WAS APPROACHED BY AN UNIDENTIFIED SOVIET WHO TRIED TO PASS WHAT APPEARED TO BE A PACKET OF LETTERS. THIS TOOK PLACE IN FULL VIEW OF THE EMBASSY'S MILITSIA GUARDS.
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CALLAWAY REFUSED TO ACCEPT MATERIAL.

F. IN EARLY JULY, JACK GOSNELL, EMBASSY SCIENCE OFFICER, WAS ASKED BY AN UNIDENTIFIED SOVIET TO DELIVER A NOTE TO THE EMBASSY. WHEN GOSNELL REFUSED, THE SOVIET THREW THE NOTE INTO GOSNELL'S CAR.

G. ON JULY 13, JOSEPH HULINGS, EMBASSY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, WAS APPROACHED ONE BLOCK AWAY FROM THE EMBASSY BY A SOVIET WHO ASKED HULINGS TO TAKE A LETTER OR LETTERS TO THE EMBASSY. REFUSING THE REQUEST, HULINGS WAS THEN ASKED TO SET UP A MEETING WITH SOMEONE FROM THE EMBASSY LATER THAT DAY. THE RENDEZVOUS WAS NOT KEPT.

H. ON THE FOLLOWING DAY, MAJ DOUGLAS ENGLUND, USDAO, RETURNED TO HIS CAR AT APPROXIMATELY 2115 AND FOUND FOUR LETTERS ON THE BACK SEAT OF HIS VEHICLE. THREE OF THE LETTERS WERE ADDRESSED TO MINISTER JACK MATLOCK, THE FOURTH TO AN UNKNOWN INDIVIDUAL.

I. ON OR ABOUT JULY 18 (EXACT DATE IS UNCERTAIN) PATRICIA ANNE WOOD, SPOUSE OF AN AMERICAN SCIENCE EXCHANGEES WAS APPROACHED BY AN UNIDENTIFIED SOVIET WHO ATTEMPTED TO PASS HER A PAPER FOR

DELIVERY TO A WESTERN CORRESPONDENT AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY. THE INCIDENT OCCURRED ON THE STREET, AND THE OFFER WAS REBUFFED BY WOOD.

J. WHILE WALKING TO HIS WEEKLY HAIRCUT APPOINTMENT, MARINE GUARD EUGENE FRANTZ WAS QUESTIONED BY AN UNIDENTIFIED SOVIET ABOUT HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS. WHEN FRANTZ DEMURRED, THE SOVIET SURPRISED THE MARINE GUARD BY DESCRIBING TO HIM HIS TWICE WEEKLY WALKS WITH THE SON OF A CORRESPONDENT FOR THE BALTIMORE SUN. THE SOVIET INDICATED THAT HE WANTED TO MEET THE CORRESPONDENT EARLY THAT SAME AFTERNOON AT A MOVIE THEATER.

K. DONALD BOHRINGER, AMERICAN SCIENCE EXCHANGEES ON JULY 24 WAS APPROACHED ON A BUS BY A SOVIET WHO IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS CONFIDENTIAL

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DERITZOFF. BOHRINGER INITIALLY FELT THAT HE HAD BEEN MISTAKEN FOR A CORRESPONDENT. WHEN DERITZOFF LEARNED THAT THE AMERICAN WAS NEITHER A CORRESPONDENT NOR AN EMBASSY OFFICER, HE (DERITZOFF) ATTEMPTED TO ARRANGE A RENDEZVOUS WITH "SOMEONE FROM THE EMBASSY" LATER THAT SAME DAY IN FRONT OF GORKY PARK.

L. ON JULY 24 AT APPROXIMATELY 1700, ONE KARIL VLADIMEROVICH SOROKO-KORILEYEV, A SOVIET, PRESENTED HIMSELF AT THE MARINE DESK IN THE EMBASSY AND STATED THAT HE HAD DOCUMENTS WHICH HE WANTED TO PRESENT TO THE "SENIOR MILITARY ATTACHE". HE SUBSEQUENTLY DEPARTED THE EMBASSY WITH NO APPARENT DIFFICULTIES. SOROKO-KIRILEYEV ALSO SAID THAT HE WAS DESIROUS OF MEETING WITH ONE OF THE SENIOR MILITARY ATTACHES IN "THE FOREST OUTSIDE OF MOSCOW" SO THAT HE MIGHT DISCUSS HIS PROJECT IN THE "STRICTEST CONFIDENCE."

2. SOME OF THESE INCIDENTS APPEAR INNOCUOUS. HOWEVER, WHEN EXAMINED IN TOTO THERE IS A SENSE OF ORCHESTRATION. EMBASSY OFFICERS ARE FREQUENTLY CONTACTED BY SOVIETS INTERESTED IN PASSING "INFORMATION" OR REQUESTING ASSISTANCE, HOWEVER, THE LARGE NUMBERS OF CONTACTS IN SUCH A RELATIVELY SHORT PERIOD OF TIME IS HIGHLY SUSPICIOUS. ALSO SIGNIFICANT ARE THE MANY REQUESTS FOR MEETINGS WITH MILITARY ATTACHES AND CORRESPONDENTS.

3. POST HAS TAKEN A NUMBER OF STEPS TO ACQUAINT ALL PERSONNEL WITH THE DANGERS IN ACCEPTING MATERIAL OR PARTICIPATING IN CHANCE CONTACTS, E.G. SECURITY AND STAFF BRIEFINGS. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ESTABLISHED CONTACTS WITH SOVIETS, AMERICAN CITIZENS AND EMBASSY PERSONNEL ARE NOW BEING TOLD NOT TO ACCEPT ANY MATERIALS FROM SOVIET CITIZENS. IN LIGHT OF CURRENT SITUATION, WE ARE NOW REEXAMINING OUR GUIDELINES FOR HANDLING WALK-INS.

4. NONE OF THE AMERICANS CONCERNED IN THE INCIDENTS ABOVE HAS TRIED TO FOLLOW UP ON ANY OF THESE CONTACTS AND NO WRITTEN CONFIDENTIAL

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MATERIAL HAS BEEN WILLINGLY ACCEPTED (AS OPPOSED TO BEING FOUND
IN AN AUTOMOBILE).TOON

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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